



# Firewise® - What can I do in one weekend?

Pick one or two action items to complete each weekend.  
Work your way through the list to increase the chances your home will survive a wildfire.

## Protect the Structure

Immediate Zone includes the home, any outbuildings or sheds, and the area within 0-5 feet from the furthest attached point (decks, porches, overhangs, garages).

- Clean forest debris off the roof, around skylights and out from gutters (leaves, pine needles, twigs).
- Inspect roofing materials; repair/replace any loose or missing shingles/tiles and fill/secure any gaps.
- Examine siding; look for locations where embers could accumulate or lodge and seal gaps/crevices.
- Clean dried leaves, pine needles and forest debris off of decks, porches and patio areas; also out from under deck/porch and between deck board joints.
- Remove flammable materials from on decks, porches and patio areas (natural fiber door mats, patio furniture cushions, items that can collect pine needles/debris where embers can accumulate or lodge).
- Remove flammable materials from underneath elevated decks/porches (ex. construction materials, wood piles, items/piles that can collect pine needles/debris).
- Use 1/8" metal wire mesh screen behind all exterior attic vents, sub-floor/foundation vents, crawl spaces, low-profile decks or to seal small spaces between ground and structure.
- Inspect garage doors and replace weather seal if needed; be sure door is tight fitting so embers can't lodge under the door, door frame or blow in from the sides.
- Install an approved spark arrester over chimney vent; or use 1/2" metal wire mesh screen.
- Replace flammable fencing where it attaches directly to home; use non-flammable fencing material (metal or masonry) for a minimum 5 feet next to structure.

## Create Survivable Space

Immediate Zone 0-5 feet from foundation & Intermediate Zone out to 30 feet from foundation.

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Create open space 5 feet around your home; remove flammable vegetation (trees, shrubs/brush).
- Rake and remove dried leaves, pine needles and ground debris away from structure (minimum 5 feet).
- Cut and remove any dry grass, weeds or wood mulch products from around the structure (minimum 5 feet).
- Remove ladder fuels from under trees (shrubs, brush, tall grass), so a surface fire cannot reach into the tree crowns. Keep shrubs a minimum of 10 feet away from the lower edge of tree branches.
- Reduce the horizontal continuity of vegetation; remove trees and shrubs to create open space. Minimum of 18 feet between tree tops (depending on slope and tree species).
- Prune trees 6-10 feet up off of the ground and away from structures; especially branches overhanging the roof or within 10 feet of the chimney/structure. Rule of thumb—do not prune more than 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Remove or trim trees overhanging and/or crowding the driveway; 12 feet wide with vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicles.
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks; minimum of 10 feet out around tank.
- Move wood piles and all combustibles (boats, trailers, swing sets, storage piles) at least 30 feet away from structure, in an open area, uphill/upslope if possible. If 30 feet is not available, move pile as far away as practical into open area, taking into account adjacent neighbor's property/structures.

## Other Considerations

- Post address numbers on non-flammable post; make sure they are clearly visible from the street/road.
- Dispose of cleared debris and cuttings promptly

These tips and recommendations may not be the only actions needed to help protect your property from wildfire. They are not requirements nor do they take precedence over local ordinances. Additional Firewise® information can be found at: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS